

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 683

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. T. Grady Gallant, Jr.
of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. T. Grady Gallant, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, T. Grady Gallant, Jr., was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, an acclaimed journalist, editor, columnist, author, and photographer, Mr. Gallant enjoyed an illustrious career that saw him cover many of the prominent national stories of the day, including the Little Rock school desegregation riots, the U.S. Space program, ground-breaking Supreme Court decisions, and political campaigns and politicians at both the state and national level, such as Governor Prentice Cooper, John Kennedy, Richard Nixon, and George Wallace; and

WHEREAS, the son of Thomas Grady Gallant, Sr., and Louise Ralls Gallant, T. Grady Gallant, Jr., was born on June 14, 1920, in Gadsden, Alabama, and grew up in Sanford, Florida, and attended Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, a member of this Nation's "Greatest Generation," T. Grady Gallant proudly answered the call to arms during World War II, seeing action as a Sergeant of Special Weapons with the 1st Marine Division of the United States Fleet Marine Force at the assault on Guadalcanal on his first tour of duty, 1941-1945, and service with the 4th Marine Division of the United States Fleet Marine Force on his second tour, participating in the Battle of Iwo Jima; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Gallant began his journalism career as editor of the *Daily Banner* in Cleveland, Tennessee, in 1947, before relocating to Chattanooga where he was

employed as a reporter and columnist for the *Chattanooga News/Free Press* and the *Chattanooga Times* from 1948 to 1963; and

WHEREAS, continuing his upward advancement, T. Grady Gallant served as columnist/editor for the *Chattanooga Post* from 1966 to 1970 and was city editor of the *Raleigh News and Observer* in Raleigh, North Carolina, during part of 1971 before returning to Tennessee to work as a political reporter/columnist for the *Nashville Banner* until 1974; and

WHEREAS, during his lifetime, Mr. Gallant also served as a public information officer for the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury of Tennessee under Comptroller William Snodgrass, publicity director for the Cherokee, North Carolina, Historical Association from 1959-1961, and as a member of the Museum Advisory Panel for the Tennessee Arts Commission in 1974; and

WHEREAS, combining his tremendous writing talents with his military experiences as a Marine during World War II, T. Grady Gallant was the author of two very well-received books, *On Valor's Side*, about Marines prior to World War II and the Battle of Guadalcanal, and *The Friendly Dead*, about Marines on the Iwo Jima battlefield; and

WHEREAS, his works have been published numerous times, with chapters of his books included in the Anthology of the United States Marines in World War II; his work is quoted extensively in *The War Within War* by Gerald F. Linderman and numerous other books by military historians; and

WHEREAS, a Marine through and through, T. Grady Gallant, Jr., passed away on November 10, 2009, which was the 234th birthday of the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades during his lifetime, T. Grady Gallant, Jr., was listed in *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*, *Contemporary Authors*, and *The Writers Directory 1974-1976*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gallant was an active and devout member of St. George Episcopal Church, which he served faithfully for many years in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gallant enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Micheal Ann, and was the proud parent of three children, Lacy Campbell-Orde, Thomas G. Gallant III, and C. Scott R. Gallant, and loving grandfather to twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, T. Grady Gallant, Jr., leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of T. Grady Gallant, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of T. Grady Gallant, Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.